



A Residents Guide to Coyotes

Issues and Solutions to Dealing with Urban Coyotes

Coyotes are traditionally found in woodland areas across Wisconsin and prefer remote places; however, these animals are very adaptive and can survive in and around urban areas. Coyotes' range of territory can vary significantly, so coyotes may travel large distances between urban and rural areas.

Be aware that part of their

territory may include the Village of Bayside and your backyard. The following guide will provide background information on coyotes, along with solutions and methods you can use to avoid and respond to coyote encounters.

Are Coyotes Dangerous to Humans?

Coyotes are generally not aggressive towards humans, as they have a natural fear of humans. Some coyotes in the southeastern Wisconsin area have lost some of their fear towards humans as hunting and trapping of them has decreased over time. These coyotes have grown accustomed to living in and around populated areas and may not flee upon an encounter with a human. Urban coyotes may be bolder towards humans as they are more likely to associate humans with an easy and dependable source of food than their rural counterparts. Remember, coyotes are wild animals and should be treated with respect. If you see one, keep your distance and don't leave small children unattended outside. If you are approached by a coyote, don't turn your back and run. Shouting, making loud noises, waving your arms, maintaining eye contact, and throwing small stones are all proven techniques for making the coyotes flee or ending an encounter.

Ways to Discourage Coyotes

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Eliminating easy food sources for coyotes is the most important step you can take to discourage coyotes from living in and traveling through this area. The following are effective ways to reduce the chance of encountering a coyote:

- Do not feed coyotes
- Remove bird feeders or keep them in areas where coyotes cannot get at the food or birds
- Do not keep dog or cat food outside
- Make sure your garbage can lid is secured on your container
- Don't allow pets to run free
- If you see a coyote around your home or neighborhood, discourage them by shouting, waving your arms, making loud noises, throwing stones or any other creative way to instill the fear of humans back into these animals.

Are Pets at Risk from Coyotes?

How to keep your pets safe

The only way to guarantee your pet's safety is to keep it indoors. If your dog does go outside, you can reduce the risk of it encountering a coyote if you:

- Keep your dog on a short leash
- Supervise your dog when its off-leash in your yard
- Walk your dog at times and place with high pedestrian traffic

Coyotes generally won't prey upon or act aggressively towards domesticated animals when their natural food sources are plentiful and they have large territories; however these factors are often different in urban areas.

Coyotes may act aggressively towards dogs as they perceive the dog as a threat and will act to defend its territory and

food source. Coyotes view dogs as competition, not as prey. Cats roaming freely are easy prey for coyotes, especially at night.

Remember, Village Code prohibits pets from roaming freely throughout the Village.

Solutions like keeping your dog on a leash, installing outdoor lighting or motion detectors, and accompanying your pet outside, especially at night time, are all ways to reduce the chance that your pet might have an encounter with a coyote.



Managing the Coyote Population

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The DNR currently allows a year-round fire arm season on hunting coyotes and designated seasons for trapping coyotes. These methods are generally more effective in rural areas, but are difficult to implement in urban areas due to local ordinances prohibiting hunting or trapping. Bayside does not allow the discharge of firearms or bow and arrows within the Village for the purpose of hunting coyotes. Residents may trap coyotes if they hire their own licensed, private contracting service to carrying out the trapping activities.

How do I know it's a Coyote?

The coyote, *Canis latrans*, is a member of the dog family and are similar in appearance to a small-medium Collie dog. They have erect pointed ears, slender muzzles, and a bushy tail. Males tend to be larger than females. Fur colors can vary widely, ranging from brownish gray to occasionally black with a white chest to a dull yellow grey. Their tracks are smaller, narrower, and more elongated than a normal dog.

For more information regarding coyotes in the Village of Bayside, please contact Captain Scott McConnell at 414-351-8800 or at smcconnell@bayside-wi.gov or visit the Village website Coyote Information Page at <http://bayside-wi.gov/index.aspx?nid=152>

Are Coyotes Here to Stay?

The Short Answer is Yes.

Coyotes have adapted well to urban environments across the state and nation, because city environments are abundant in shelter and food sources. Most coyotes prey upon small mammals like rabbits and mice; however, in urban environments they also prey upon plentiful and easy food sources like geese, squirrels, eggs, fawns, garbage, and sometimes small, domesticated pets.

Eradication programs in many cities have resulted in prolonged and expensive failures. The eradication efforts may get rid of individual animals, but the coyote habitat remains. New coyotes will move into the



area to take the place of the eradicated coyote. Other coyotes will quickly move into the area to take advantage of the bountiful food and shelter sources. Eradication efforts like hunting and trapping are effective ways to get rid of trouble or dangerous animals, but will not completely rid the area of all coyotes.

If residents follow the simple steps and recommendations outlined in this document, they can significantly reduce the risk that they or their pets will have a negative encounter with a coyote.

Do Coyotes carry diseases or parasites?

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Coyotes are hosts for traditional parasites like fleas, mites, ticks, lice, flatworms, roundworms, and can carry diseases like Rabies, Canine Parvo Virus, and Canine Distemper. Dog and cat owners are advised to make sure that their pet's vaccinations are kept up-to-date to prevent any complications from coming into contact with infected coyotes or their secretions and excretions. If you see a coyote or any other wild animal that appears sick, contact the Village Police Department or the DNR immediately.

Additional Resources on Coyotes

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The following websites provide additional resources for residents interested in coyotes. Links to these websites can also be found on the Village's Coyote Information website page at <http://bayside-wi.gov/index.aspx?NID=152>

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/html/stories/1999/dec99/coyote.htm>
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/cek/critter/mammal/coyote.htm>
- <http://bayside-wi.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=211>
- http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_faqs_notice/fs_wscoyote.pdf
- http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h_f/urban_coyote_faqs.pdf

Residents can also call the DNR toll free information line at 888-936-7463, 7 days a week from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM.